

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/648,532

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-28, 57, 58, 61 and 82-102 are pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 29-56, 59-60 and 62-81 are canceled.

ELECTION/RESTRICTIONS:

The Examiner set forth a restriction requirement asserting that the previously submitted claims 74-81 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. In particular, the Examiner breaks the claims into Group I, Claims 1-28 and 59-73; and Group II, Claims 74-81. Applicant respectfully elects Group I, without traverse. Non-elected claims 74-81 are hereby canceled. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to a non-elected claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-4, 7, 59, 62 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Berman et al. (U.S. Patent 6,502,194).

Claims 8-13, 60, 61, 71, 64, 65 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman et al. in view of Chen (U.S. Patent 5,991,737).

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman in view of Hughes et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002-0023015).

Claims 57 and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman in view of Rosenberg (U.S. Patent 6,879,963).

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As noted on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 5, 6, 14-24, 26-28 and 62-72 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Without conceding to the grounds of rejection, Applicants hereby amend the claims to capture the allowable subject matter so as to expedite prosecution and place the application in consideration for allowance.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 3, 4 and 5. New independent claims 82, 89, 91, 93, 96, 99 and 101 are added to capture the other variants of the allowable subject matter. In particular, claim 82 includes the allowable subject matter of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 and 14. Claims 83-88 correspond to previous claims 15-20 and depend from claim 82. Independent claim 89 includes the subject matter of claims 1, 2 and 21. Claim 90 depends from claim 89 and corresponds to previous claim 22. Independent claim 91 includes the subject matter of claims 1, 2 and 23. Claim 92 depends from claim 91 and corresponds to previous claim 24. Independent claim 93 includes the allowable subject matter of claims 1, 2 and 26. Claims 94 and 95 depend from claim 93 and respectively correspond to previous claims 27 and 28. Independent claim 96 includes the allowable subject matter of claims 62 and 66. Claim 97 depends from claim 96 and corresponds to previous claim 67. Independent claim 98 includes the allowable subject matter of claims 62 and 68. Claim 99 depends from claim 98 and corresponds to previous claim 69. Independent claim 100 includes the allowable subject matter

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of claims 62 and 70, while dependent claims 101 and 102 respectively correspond to previous claims 71 and 72.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

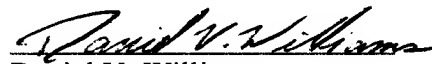
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